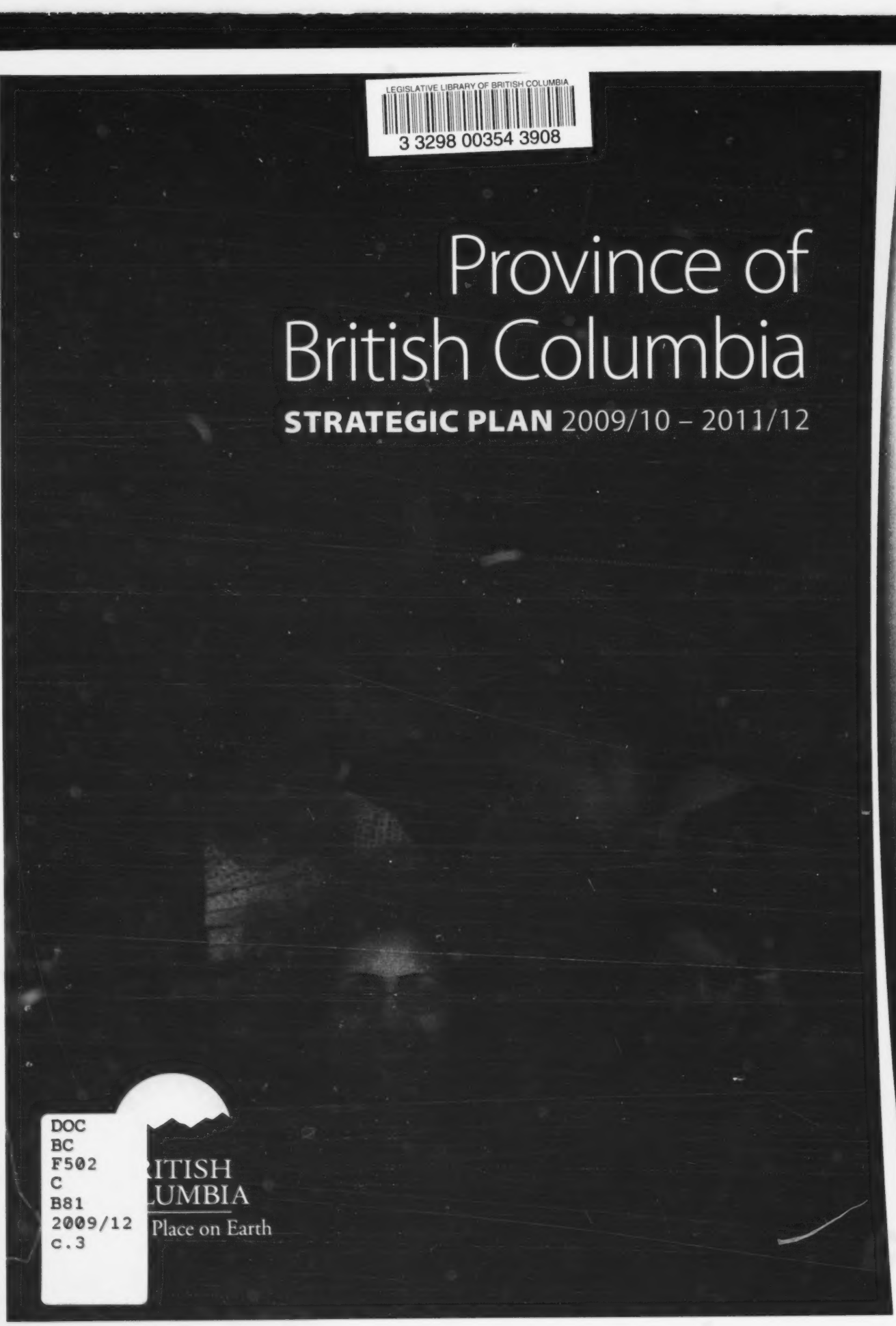
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Province of British Columbia

STRATEGIC PLAN 2009/10 – 2011/12



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Province of British Columbia

Great Goals for a Golden Decade

1. *Make B.C. the best educated, most literate jurisdiction on the continent.*

2. *Lead the way in North America in healthy living and physical fitness.*

3. *Build the best system of support in Canada for persons with disabilities, those with special needs, children at risk and seniors.*

4. *Lead the world in sustainable environmental management, with the best air and water quality, and the best fisheries management, bar none.*

5. *Create more jobs per capita than anywhere else in Canada.*

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To be a prosperous and just province; whose citizens achieve their potential and have confidence in the future.

Government's core values are

- **Integrity**: to make decisions in a manner that is consistent, professional, fair, transparent and balanced;
- **Fiscal Responsibility**: to implement affordable public policies;
- **Accountability**: to enhance efficiency, effectiveness and the credibility of government;
- **Respect**: to treat all citizens equitably, compassionately and respectfully; and
- **Choice**: to afford citizens the opportunity to exercise self-determination.

Letter From The Premier

We started this year in a very different position than we did in 2008. While our economy in early 2008 was the strongest it had been in a number of decades, we are now all living in the reality of a global financial crisis that affects every single one of us.

These last few months have seen unprecedented reductions in revenues and revenue projections, and required government to take the drastic step of running a deficit budget for the short term in order to preserve core services and to undertake job-creating investments. Through sound fiscal planning and cautious budgeting over the last eight years, and the investments we are making today, I believe we have a foundation that puts us ahead of most other jurisdictions. Our commitment to the five Great Goals and the achievements we have made in those areas creates a framework for us to move forward into a new economy and new era of prosperity and growth.

A focus on the economy with a strategic initiative to create jobs through capital infrastructure programs will continue to be a top priority, to ensure that we emerge from this crisis in the strongest position possible.

In one short year the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games will arrive. These Olympic Games have been built on the principle of sustainable development, and will benefit everyone in British Columbia through their legacies. This provides us with an unprecedented opportunity to showcase our Province to those people around the world that will be travelling here to see the Games first hand, or will be watching them from their homes.

Government will continue to provide the supports needed to ensure all British Columbians, particularly those most vulnerable, have what they need to be healthy and live fulfilling lives. This includes a focus on early learning initiatives so our children are best prepared when they enter school.

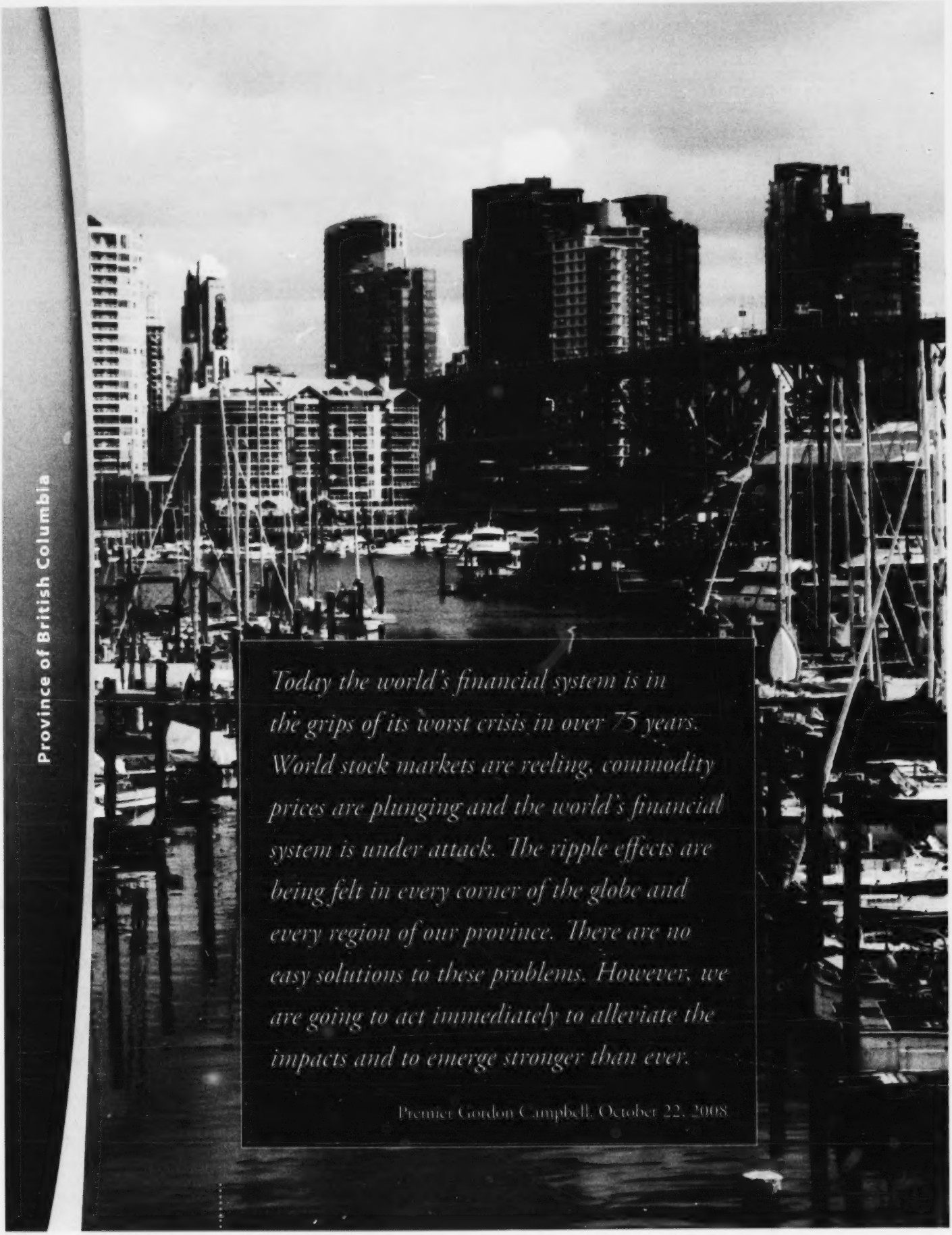
We have positioned ourselves as a champion for climate change and will continue to work towards leading the country in preserving our land, water and air for future generations. Climate change is also presenting new economic opportunities through new industries and markets, and we will ensure we are in the best possible position to capitalize on these opportunities.

This strategic plan sets out our vision for British Columbia and identifies the priorities over the next three years. Further details on each Ministry's role in these priorities can be found in individual Ministry Service Plans and Annual Service Plan Reports.

If we can all work together to make this vision real, we can show everyone that we truly do live in the best place on earth.



Honourable Gordon Campbell
Premier of British Columbia


Province of British Columbia
Today the world's financial system is in the grips of its worst crisis in over 75 years. World stock markets are reeling, commodity prices are plunging and the world's financial system is under attack. The ripple effects are being felt in every corner of the globe and every region of our province. There are no easy solutions to these problems. However, we are going to act immediately to alleviate the impacts and to emerge stronger than ever.
Premier Gordon Campbell, October 22, 2008

1. A Healthy Economy

Great Goal

Create more jobs per capita than anywhere else in Canada.

What Are We Doing Now?

We are living in unprecedented times, with the world's economy seeming to change on a daily basis. We should not underestimate the challenges before us right now, but neither should we underestimate our ability to weather the storm.

Since 2001, the Province has laid the foundations for a strong economy over the long-term. We have made more than 100 tax cuts for families and businesses. Red tape has been dramatically reduced. Sound fiscal planning has allowed us to invest in our communities and in our core social programs over the last eight years. We have invested in training workers of today and tomorrow, while also investing in opening up new markets, new opportunities for trade and new technologies to take advantage of those skills. We have invested in our core rural industries to support their competitiveness and their resiliency in a changing world to take advantage of a 21st century economy. Our budgeting practices and fiscal prudence have also given us one of the strongest credit ratings anywhere, allowing us to continue making the investments British Columbians depend on.



The economic plan announced by the Premier in the fall represented immediate actions by government to support families, businesses, and workers and to boost productivity, including tax reductions, support for low-income earners and new protection for people's savings. This year we will build on that plan. Government's funding commitments to accelerate spending on public infrastructure, and ensuring avoidable government spending is limited will further bolster our strong economic position when this crisis turns around. These measures represent as aggressive an approach as possible while ensuring previously planned funding uplifts for core government services, such as health care and education, are retained.

We are one of the leading economies, not just in Canada, but on the continent. As we move forward into the 21st century, and through these turbulent times, we are doing so with a diversified economy, and with expanded opportunities for British Columbians. A strong, diverse economy is an essential building block for both economic and social prosperity. A strong economy has allowed British Columbians to have strong social safety nets.

We are committed to ensuring that the economy remains strong in British Columbia so workers and families have the security they need to build the future they want.

TAX AND COMPETITIVENESS

Currently, B.C. has the lowest personal income taxes in Canada for individuals earning up to $111,000. Since 2001, the B.C. Government has introduced over 100 tax cuts. The most recent reductions in tax relief and support for businesses, families and individuals represent an additional accumulation of $485 million over the next three years.



As a result of the tax cuts, 250,000 more low income British Columbians now pay no provincial income tax, and most others have received income tax reductions of 37 per cent and some more than 70 per cent.

B.C.'s corporate tax rate is among the lowest in North America. Additionally, in June of 2008, the small business income tax rate was reduced. As of December 1, 2008 the small business income tax rate was reduced further to 2.5%, resulting in a 44% tax decrease for small business in 2008. The total savings to small business will be $401 million in three years.

All of these initiatives will enhance B.C.'s competitiveness by attracting highly-skilled people, creating business opportunities and enabling economic growth.

ASIA PACIFIC GATEWAY

British Columbia is North America's natural gateway to the dynamic economies of the Asia Pacific. The province's major ports, airports, railways, and roadways are a major hub in a supply chain providing many of the goods we consume each and every day. The hub is known around the world as the Pacific Gateway. Container traffic to all west coast ports is forecast to rise a staggering 300% by 2020. The Province is looking to the future and planning for that growth.

The Asia Pacific Initiative, released in 2007 as B.C.'s long-term strategy to diversify our economic ties with the Asia Pacific region, signals the Province's recognition of the economic importance of the region. Asia now includes three of the four largest economies in the world. This initiative could benefit the Province by as much as $77 billion in increased trade and 255,000 jobs by 2020.

B.C.'s 2020 Goal for the Pacific Century is to be recognized internationally as North America's capital for Asia Pacific commerce and culture.

The Asia Pacific Initiative focuses on five priority areas:

- *advance B.C.'s global identity as Canada's Pacific Gateway;*
- *continue to build a world-class infrastructure;*
- *strengthen and maximize B.C.'s trade and investment relationships;*
- *become the Asia-Pacific education, tourism and cultural destination of choice; and*
- *ensure the province's labour force is equipped with the skills to thrive in the Pacific Century economy.*

Significant progress has been made in these areas. B.C. has established networks that support trade and investment flows to and from Asia, including the roll-out of B.C. trade and investment representative offices in Asia, programs to strengthen economic relationships between communities, and activities to enhance B.C.'s relationship with influential individuals, business leaders, and government officials. B.C. has also implemented an aggressive program of government and business missions between B.C. and Asia and enhanced our capacity to manage and match trade and investment leads.

From May to September 2008, the B.C.-Canada Pavilion in Beijing enabled B.C. companies to introduce and market themselves to China and the world at the Beijing Olympics. 2,378 Chinese delegates and 32 industry sector groups were hosted in the Pavilion, resulting in new, significant trade and investment partnerships.

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Transportation and infrastructure are the backbone of a growing economy. Infrastructure spending is being accelerated to take advantage of our surplus this year and to respond to the overall economic downturn. Projects that will be fast-tracked include those that do not require a long lead time, such as road maintenance projects and seismic upgrades to schools. These projects will ensure people remain employed in our construction sector.

It is critical to have the roads and highways in place to ensure the movement of both goods and people. Since 2001, B.C. has paved 25,000 km of highway, the equivalent of driving from Vancouver to Sydney, Australia, and back. Also, on September 26, 2008, the tolls on the Coquihalla were removed, saving time and money for those transporting goods.



Transportation facts:

- ***863 major constructions projects with approximately $174.7 billion are planned or underway in B.C.***
- ***In the Province's three-year $2.3 billion transportation plan, almost 60 per cent of spending is for projects outside of the Lower Mainland.***
- ***90 per cent of funding for road and bridge maintenance (in excess of $340 million) is for highway systems outside of the Lower Mainland.***

The Trans-Canada Highway through the Kicking Horse Canyon is a vital link between the ports of B.C. and the rest of Canada. The first two phases of the Kicking Horse Canyon project, the $64 million Yoho Bridge and the $143 million Park Bridge have been completed and are in use. The third phase of the project is currently underway. The new five-lane William R. Bennett floating bridge was opened to traffic in May 2008, more than three months ahead of schedule. This bridge produces increased road safety and substantial time and cost savings for the 50,000 daily bridge users.

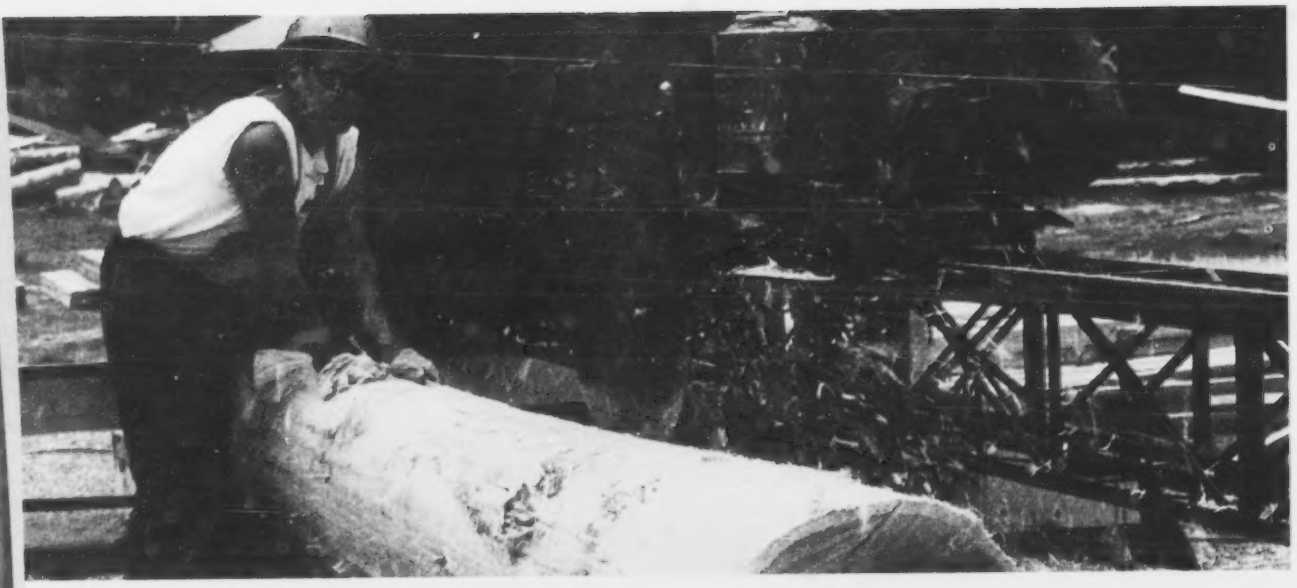
In 2003, the Province established the Gateway Program to respond to the impact of growing regional congestion and to improve the movement of goods and people. This includes construction on the Port Mann/Highway 1 project to create a first-class, state-of-the-art connector to clear traffic congestion on this critical transportation link. Additionally, the seven lane Pitt River Bridge will be completed this year, and construction has also started on the South Fraser Perimeter Road Project.

Infrastructure improvements provide access to resources and services for all British Columbians. The road networks in rural B.C. are taking record numbers of traffic, and the Province is committed to improving those roads. Trucks and transports carrying everything from pine beetle wood to heavy equipment for oil and gas exploration are impacting the existing infrastructure. The Province is investing $30 million to rehabilitate rural provincial roads hard-hit by increasing truck traffic.

FOREST INVESTMENTS

The forestry sector has gone through some difficult times over the last few years in British Columbia. It has been the victim of the fallout of the U.S. housing market and of the mountain pine beetle devastation. The Province is committed to rebuilding the industry and to providing relief to families and communities that have felt the effects of its decline.

In January, the Government announced a number of changes to ensure the forest industry can remain strong. Coastal stumpage rates were updated to reflect market realities, and new measures were introduced



to expand the use of B.C. wood in construction, support growth and foster diversification. Measures were also introduced to extend employment insurance and work-sharing programs, as well as tax exemptions for trust funds.

Three programs were launched through the $129 million Community Development Trust in 2008 to assist forestry workers and their families through tough times. The Community Development Trust includes: a $17.2 million Tuition Assistance Fund, offering forest workers facing layoff opportunities to upgrade their skills, knowledge and education; an $85.5-million Transitional Assistance program to help forest workers transition to retirement; and a $26.25 million Job Opportunities Program to provide short-term employment opportunities, including $4 million in direct assistance to Mackenzie and Fort St. James, two of B.C.'s most forestry-dependent and highly impacted communities. Over 5,000 forest workers in communities across the province will benefit from the programs and services made available by the Community Development Trust over the next two years.

The Working Roundtable on Forestry was established in 2008 to help strengthen the forestry sector in B.C. over the next ten years. The Roundtable's primary focus is to identify conditions for the long-term success of British Columbia's forest sector within the global marketplace.

The Province has developed a B.C. Bioenergy Strategy to lay the framework for converting more waste into clean energy. This includes examining opportunities for using biomass created out of mountain pine beetle wood that can stimulate investment and economic diversification while producing clean energy. New opportunities are also being examined to further utilize B.C. wood products, including a change in the B.C. Building Code to allow 6-storey mid-rise wood frame residential construction.

The Mountain Pine Beetle Action Plan is designed to lessen both the short and long-term impacts of this epidemic and is helping to provide

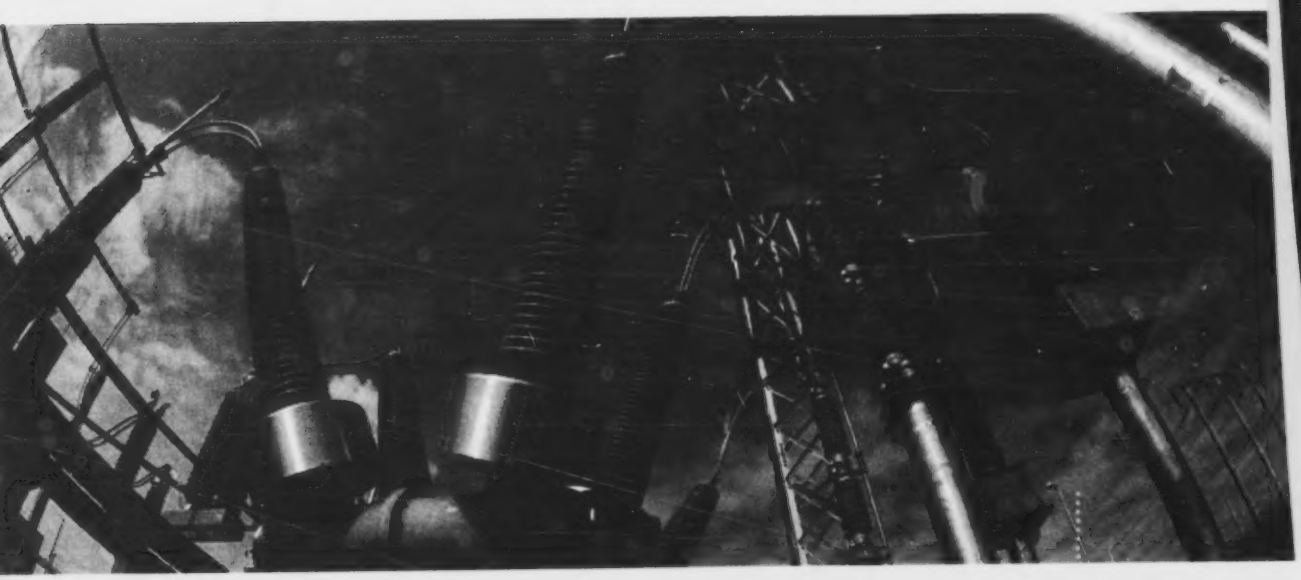
a framework for action for everyone involved. Economic stability is a key aspect of the Plan, and the Province is working to mitigate economic impacts of the pine beetle on communities. Funding and support is being provided to beetle impacted communities to help them diversify their economic base, for example by developing opportunities in other resource sectors like mineral exploration, bioenergy, agriculture, recreation and tourism. Since 2001, the Province has committed approximately $642 million to battle mountain pine beetle and mitigate future impacts, create new markets and diversity affected communities. Working together, and with the federal government, we can move on and thrive in spite of the mountain pine beetle.

ENERGY AND MINING

The Province released the B.C. Energy Plan in February, 2007, which represents our plan to make the province energy self-sufficient while taking responsibility for the natural environment and climate change.

Electricity is the lifeblood of our modern economy and key to our way of life. To ensure the Province is able to meet its commitment to becoming energy self-sufficient, we will be working closely with B.C. Hydro and industry in a number of areas, including consultations on Site C, supporting the developrnent of the Northwest Transmission line along Highway 37 and fostering partnerships with independent power producers. All of this is done with the commitment that B.C. Hydro and the B.C. Transmission Corporation are publicly-owned Crown Corporations now and into the future.

Since 2001, the oil and gas industry has seen unprecedented growth and investment in British Columbia. Revenue from oil and gas land right sales topped $2.5 billion in 2008 which is almost double what was received in 2007. Oil and gas revenue has doubled since 2001. The oil and gas industry provides thousands of jobs for British Columbians, and from our natural gas resources, many products that we all use on a daily basis. The Province is also working with industry to develop a new



natural gas transmission pipeline system from Kitimat to Summit Lake to serve the proposed Kitimat Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) facility.

The Province is attracting new investment through innovative programs and through our royalty and credit programs such as the Infrastructure Royalty Credit Program. In 2006, industry capital investment was $6.1 billion, nearly double what it was in 2001. Targeted royalty programs have helped to increase drilling activity in Northeast British Columbia.

British Columbia is one of the world's major mining jurisdictions, with seven new large mines being opened in B.C. since 2001. Mining helps sustain rural communities through jobs and economic benefits. Over 14,000 people work in the mining industry in British Columbia. These are well paying, highly skilled jobs that are steadily increasing in number. Mining in B.C. is a $5.9 billion industry, and investment in mineral exploration was $367 million in 2008, the second highest total for exploration spending ever and just off 2007's record setting pace.

The B.C. Mining plan was released in 2005 as a comprehensive approach to sustainable mining in B.C. As of December 31, 2008, over 95% of the commitments made in the Plan have been completed or are underway. There are currently 26 new mine proposals and 388 exploration projects underway for minerals, coal, industrial minerals and aggregate throughout British Columbia.

SMALL BUSINESS

Small business is the primary source of private sector jobs in the province, reflecting an ongoing trend toward economic diversification. It is also a vital source of innovation – approximately 96% of high technology businesses in B.C. are small businesses.

B.C. Stats Small Business Profile 2008, October 2008 Edition

Small businesses, which include people who are self-employed or businesses with 50 or fewer employees, are vital to the province's economic success - driving job creation, productivity and economic growth. Small businesses are the key economic driver for the B.C. economy and provide employment for over one million people, which equates to nearly one-half of all workers in B.C. Ninety-eight per cent of the 386,600 businesses registered in B.C. last year are small businesses. British Columbia is leading the country in small business growth, due in part to the ability of our small business sector to be adaptable and to be

able to identify niche markets. Small businesses now account for one-third of B.C.'s economic output, which is the highest of any province.

To support the goal of being the most small business friendly jurisdiction in Canada, the small Business Roundtable was established in 2005. For three years the Roundtable has been consulting with small business and providing advice to government and the small-business sector on issues, strategies, and potential actions to ensure continued investment and growth in the sector.

Over 151,000 regulations have been eliminated since 2001 to support small business growth, equating to a red tape reduction of 42%. Also, the Province has doubled the commission it pays business for collecting the provincial sales tax and hotel room tax, providing more than 100,000 businesses with approximately $60 million over three years and adding up to $1,200 to a business's bottom line.

To help support small business workers, the Province will create a new private sector pension opportunity for those that currently do not have access to a pension plan. In the coming months, the government will spearhead the creation of a privately financed, defined contribution plan that will be available to employers, employees and self-employed people on a voluntary basis.

The Province is committed to continue supporting and growing small business and breaking down the barriers to doing business in British Columbia.

LABOUR MARKET PLANNING

Everyone has heard about the looming aging demographic in British Columbia and all over the world, translating to potential labour shortages in our province. Over the next 12 years there will be one million jobs opening up in B.C. while over the next ten years there will only be an estimated 423,748 students that will be graduating from high school.



Since 2001, Government has invested $15.9 billion in post-secondary education – more than the entire budgets for the province of Saskatchewan and New Brunswick combined. This includes $1.5 billion

in capital expansions and seven new universities: Thompson Rivers University, Capilano University, University of the Fraser Valley, Vancouver Island University, Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Emily Carr University of Art and Design, and the new UBC Okanagan Campus in Kelowna.

B.C. has been a leader in making progress towards increasing the ability of skilled and trained workers to work anywhere in Canada without having to re-certify their credentials. The Conference Board of Canada estimates that the Trade, Investment, and Labour Mobility Agreement (TILMA), signed between Alberta and B.C. in 2006, has the potential to add $4.8 billion to real GDP and create 78,000 new jobs in British Columbia. As part of Canada's Agreement on Internal Trade, approved in December, 2008, all Canadians with a specific professional or occupational certification in one province or territory will be recognized as qualified to practice their profession in all provinces and territories where their profession or occupation is regulated. These new cross-Canada labour mobility provisions will take effect April 1, 2009. Partnerships with industry, led by the Industry Training Authority, and post-secondary institutions have also been developed to provide training opportunities for displaced workers and those seeking to upgrade their skills.

One strategy to ensure that British Columbia has a sufficient workforce for the future entails recruiting skilled workers from outside jurisdictions. The British Columbia Provincial Nominee Program (PNP) is an immigration program that is designed to allow B.C. to encourage and enable select workers and entrepreneurs based on their ability to contribute to the local economy. Nominees receive expedited processing of their applications for work permits and permanent residence. Since 2001, over 6,675 skilled workers and business immigrants have been approved through the PNP.

There are many skilled immigrants that already live in B.C. but have difficulty for various reasons finding employment in the area that they are skilled in. The B.C. Skills Connect for Immigrants Program consists of career assessment and planning, workplace language upgrading and orientation, skill enhancements and mentorship. Many B.C. immigrants possess the skills that are needed to help fill the impending labour shortages but face challenges in navigating a complex labour market entry system, language barriers, difficulty getting their credentials recognized, and lack of employment networks. Since Skills Connect services began in July 2006, over 4,000 skilled immigrants have benefited from the program. The program has had an 80% success rate in helping skilled immigrants find jobs in B.C. that match their qualifications.

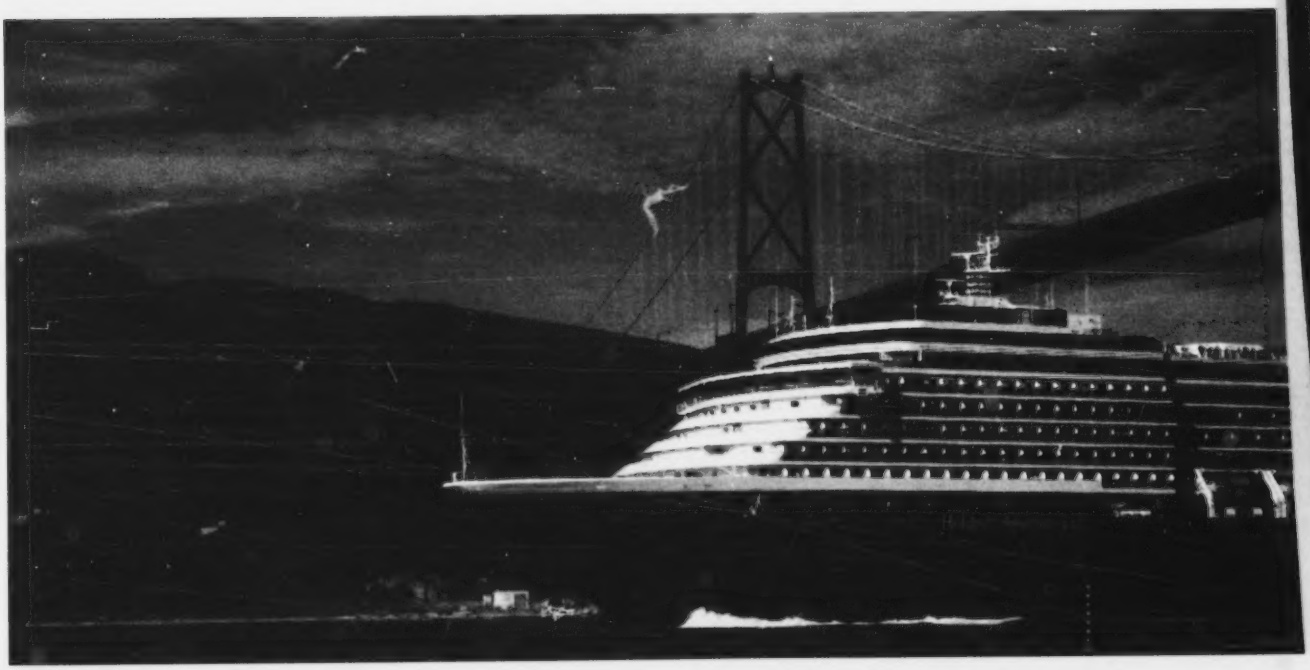
TOURISM AND CULTURE

In 359 days the Olympics will arrive, allowing us to showcase our spectacular province to the world and leaving lasting economic, social, cultural and sports legacies for years to come.

British Columbia has a spectacular natural environment, energetic cities, strong cultural diversity and some of the friendliest people in the world. All of these qualities make our province a first class destination for tourists and business travellers. We have something for everyone to enjoy. In 2007, the Province detailed its commitment to the tourism industry over the next ten years in the Tourism Action Plan. Government's goal is to enable British Columbia's tourism industry to grow and double tourism revenues by 2015. To support this goal, funding for Tourism BC has more than doubled since 2001.

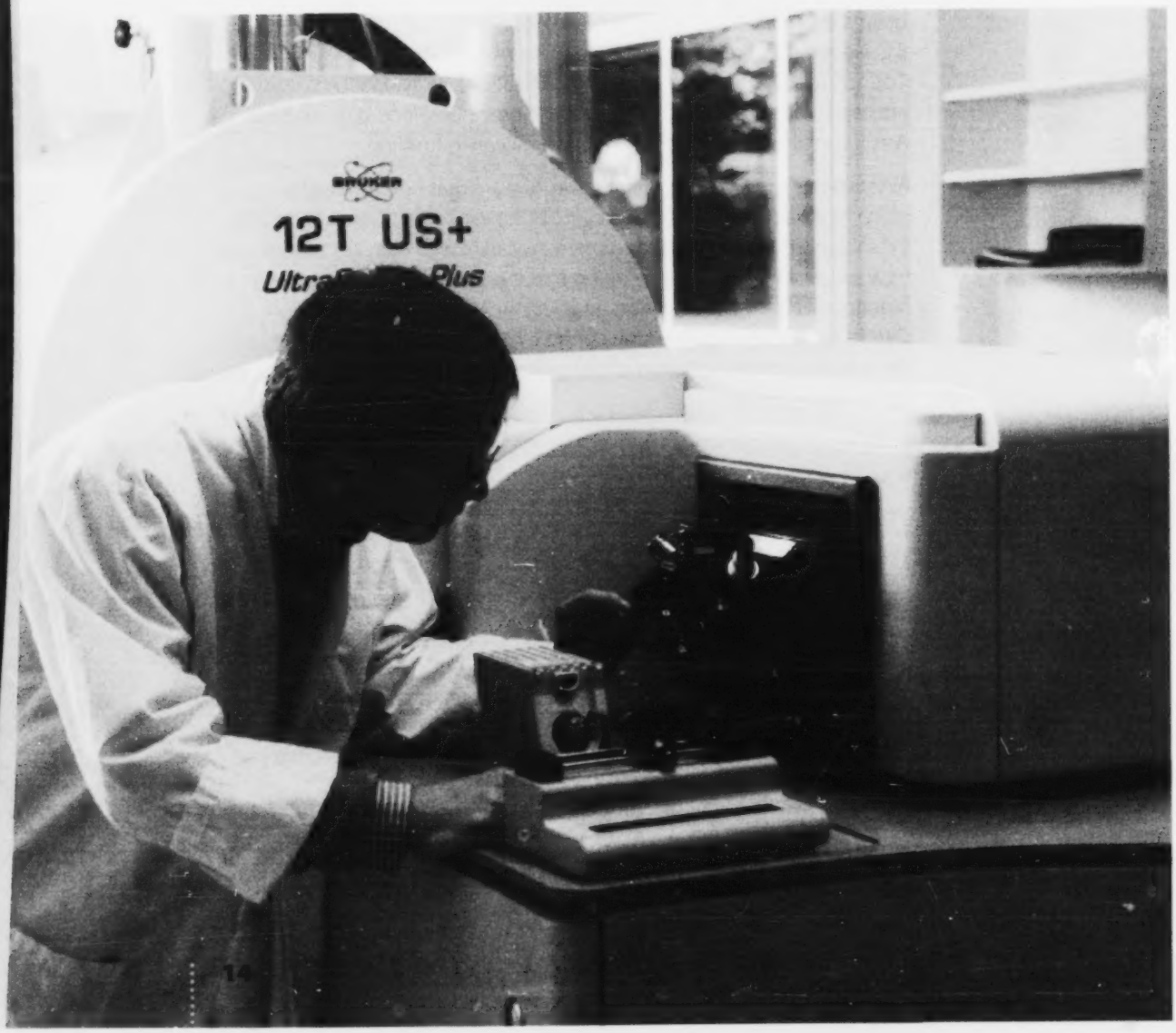
Cultural tourism is the fastest-growing tourism sector, with Aboriginal cultural tourism rising faster than traditional tourism. To support that sector further the Province committed $5 million over four years to help build a culturally rich and sustainable Aboriginal tourism industry in B.C. Government has also provided $13.8 million, through the B.C. Arts Council, to 1,000 arts and cultural organizations, individual professional artists and arts students throughout the province. Since 2001, the B.C. Arts Council has distributed over $93.5 million in funding.

First class venues are part of the infrastructure that needs to be in place to attract people to our province. The Vancouver Convention and Exhibition Centre, scheduled to open in March, will triple its size with the new expansion, a key feature being that it is capable of hosting Green Meetings or "zero waste" events. In 2008, the Vancouver Convention Centre was the first convention centre to ever be the twice recipient of the International Association of Congress Centres award for "Worlds Best Convention Centre."



Funding of $50 million was provided to the Vancouver Art Gallery to assist in the costs of moving to a new location. Also, the B.C. Spirit Squares Program provides $20 million for capital projects to create or improve outdoor public meeting and celebration spaces such as traditional town squares or community commons. These public gathering places reflect each community's unique character, heritage and cultural diversity.

British Columbia also remains a strong contender in film and television production, with a record year in domestic film production. B.C. Film Commission statistics show film and television production in British Columbia contributed $943 million to the provincial economy in 2007. Domestic film and television activity in British Columbia continued a five-year trend of continuous growth, reaching a high in 2007 of $407 million in total B.C. spending, up 47 per cent from $278 million in 2006. B.C. is the third-largest film and television service production centre in North America.



Where Do We Want To Go From Here?

Over the last eight years, we have put many fundamentals in place to ensure a thriving economy, from personal and corporate income tax cuts to reducing regulatory red tape for industry. Most recently we have taken the drastic measure of enabling the running of a deficit for the next two years to ensure we can support unprecedented and immediate infrastructure investments while retaining core government services. This has put us in a stronger position compared to many parts of Canada and has given us a strong supporting structure for what lays ahead. We must continue to ensure job creation and economic development remains our core priority. It is through a strong economy that we can continue to support the programs and investments that our families and communities depend upon.

The budget this year lays out a number of measures to support this goal in the short-term. But we must also look towards longer-term planning to ensure that when we emerge from the storm, we are in a better position than before and stronger than ever.

That is why the Economic Advisory Council has been formed to provide expert advice directly to government on ways to improve in competitiveness and productivity. This Council, headed by David Emerson and eight other experts, will focus on a broad range of economic issues including energy, the environment, the Asia Pacific, natural resources and forestry, human resources and streamlining federal/provincial government processes.

Also, two economic summits have recently been held in Prince George and Vancouver. The Northern summit brought together business, community and government leaders to examine challenges and potential opportunities of the North. The Vancouver summit explored opportunities and challenges on issues such as the state of the economy, productivity and labour mobility, international trade and competition, and economic diversification.

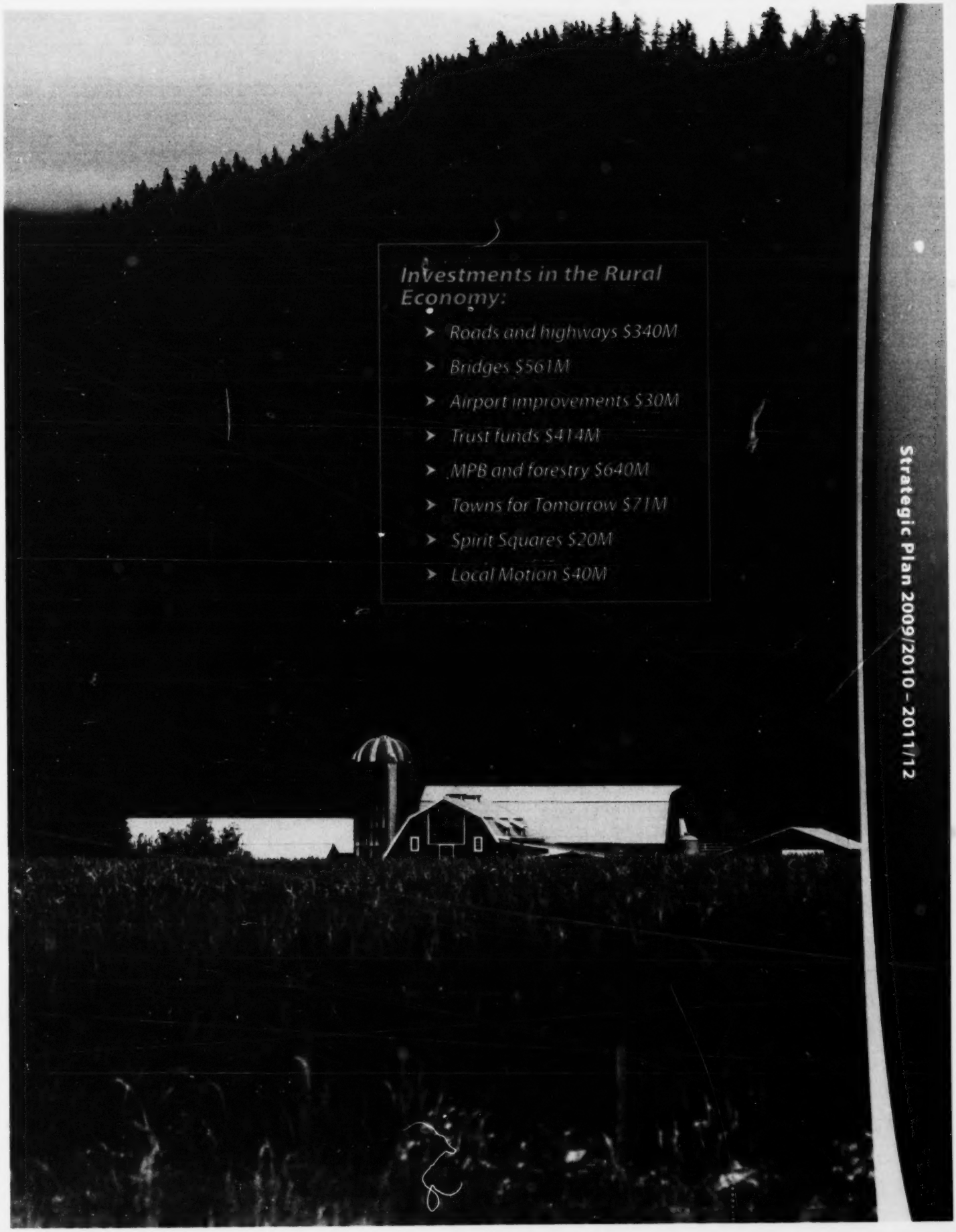
These summits, and the Economic Advisory Committee, ensure that government is hearing from and engaging with people across the province and from renowned experts on economic issues.

One of the hardest hit sectors in recent years has been the forest industry. The forest resources in our province will continue to be one of our most valuable assets, and we are examining methods to use B.C. wood to build new wood-frame structures, including condominiums, homeless shelters, schools and hospitals, as a means of creating new forestry jobs and new demand for forestry products. This approach will be presented to Canada as part of our push for a major national housing construction program to create new specialized housing units for our rapidly ageing senior population, the disabled, First Nations and people with mental illnesses. Our forest economy has grown from

strictly harvesting wood to a rich and diversified source of revenues which include biofuels, value added manufacturing, carbon capture, community development and research.

Investment in our rural communities will also be a continuing focus for Government. We will continue to enhance the infrastructure necessary to maximize our Asia-Pacific relationship and to ensure we can access the resources that are utilized throughout our province. Strong and healthy rural communities form the backbone of this province and to provide further support to rural communities across the province, we created the Rural B.C. Secretariat to serve as a direct service and information link between the provincial government and B.C.'s rural communities. In addition, the Towns for Tomorrow program established a five-year $71-million funding program for municipalities with populations under 15,000 and regional districts to develop and enhance infrastructure.

These initiatives, along with further direction taken based on advice from the Economic Advisory Council and the Economic Summits, will steer the province in the right direction and enable us to emerge from this crisis in the strongest position possible. We will have a new economy for the future, based on research investment, new development in technologies for a carbon-reduced society, new infrastructure and knowledge industries enabled through educational investments and the contributions of the people from all over the world who come to B.C.


Investments in the Rural Economy:
Roads and highways $340M
Bridges $561M
Airport improvements $30M
Trust funds $414M
MPB and forestry $640M
Towns for Tomorrow $71M
Spirit Squares $20M
Local Motion $40M



What Are We Doing Now?

EARLY LEARNING AND EDUCATION

Great Goal

Make B.C. the best educated, most literate jurisdiction on the continent.

A strong public education system is crucial to a well functioning society. We are living in a time where the economy is increasingly knowledge based. Strong literacy, numeracy and life-skills are important tools that our children and grandchildren will need to become productive, active members of society. Since 2001, the Province has increased funding to B.C. public schools to record levels. Funding has increased by close to $1.2 billion - $789 million in operating grants and $407 million in one-time grants.

Maintaining schools to provide the best environment for our children and grandchildren to learn is crucial to their success at school. Government has an aggressive capital plan to invest in our schools. Since 2001, more than $3.1 billion has been invested in school upgrades, maintenance and new schools across the province. This includes $1.5 billion committed to seismic upgrades to ensure student safety, and $1.3 billion to complete 67 new and replacement schools, 147 school additions, 25 school renovation projects and 20 school site acquisitions. Through fast-tracking our infrastructure spending, more schools will be upgraded sooner than anticipated.



Enrolment in our schools has been declining over the last number of years. This means that there are spaces in our schools that are not being used to their fullest potential. The Neighbourhoods of Learning Pilot Project will see education and community services brought together in a single neighbourhood hub. The project uses an innovative approach to underutilized school spaces in a manner that will benefit the whole community. Services offered in these neighbourhood hubs include early childhood learning programs, health clinics, family and seniors centers, and programs run by non-profit organizations.

Giving children the best start in life is good for them, and good for communities. Early learning refers to the emerging of young children's physical, intellectual, social, emotional and creative capacities, and is the foundation for lifelong learning, as well as the basis for individual, social, economic, and environmental well-being. Regardless of income, social status, geographic location, and other potential barriers, all children should have opportunities to build on their unique strengths. The children of today will be the leaders and innovators who help shape British Columbia's future.

The Province is committed to giving children the best possible start on their path though the education system. StrongStart BC is an early learning program for preschool aged children and their caregivers. Children receive quality early childhood education, while parents and caregivers learn new ways to support their children's learning at home. Currently there are close to 200 StrongStart centres located across British Columbia - by 2010 that number will be reach 400.

The Province is interested in doing what works to help children have the best start to life that is possible. In 2007, the Province committed $2.25 million to an endowment for the Sunny Hill Centre B.C. Leadership Chair in Early Childhood Development at the University of British Columbia. This endowment will help fund research that will tell us how early environments affect the development of young children, how social experiences affect early human development, influence health, learning and behaviour.

Being literate is a fundamental skill that every British Columbian should possess. Literacy opens the doors to many opportunities – educational, career and family. Currently, students in British Columbia have one of the highest levels of literacy in the world, and the Province is committed to further increasing the literacy levels of everyone in British Columbia. ReadNow BC is about ensuring that British Columbians have the essential skills that they need to function in a knowledge-based economy.



Since 2001, the Province has invested more than $151 million in new literacy initiatives, including pre-literacy and early learning programs, such as $12 million to operate the kindergarten readiness program Ready, Set, Learn, and $2.7 million for the ActNow Literacy Education Activity and Play (LEAP BC) program that encourages literacy, physical activity and healthy eating in preschool-aged children.

The Province has increased its funding for community adult literacy programs to help British Columbians reach their potential at work and at home. In 2007/08 the Province increased funding for community adult literacy programs by more than 70 per cent to $2.4 million.

Post-secondary education prepares the workforce of tomorrow, and helps to keep British Columbians competitive in the knowledge based economy. Since 2001, there has been a 40 per cent increase in the operating fund for the province's post-secondary institutions, representing a $15.9 billion investment.

Students in British Columbia have more choices available to them. Since 2001, the Province has created seven new universities that will respond to regional, provincial, national and international needs. These universities will provide programs with specific focus to meet demands of skill and knowledge shortages in the labour market, and will provide increased access to students seeking a university degree, allowing students to stay closer to home.

The Aboriginal Special Projects Fund is part of the larger $65 million Aboriginal Post-Secondary Education Strategy which helps Aboriginal students to start, stay in and succeed in post-secondary education and training. The strategy addresses the barriers to education by increasing access and participation through financial support to students and institutions, improving literacy skills, and creating culturally relevant programs that will help Aboriginal students succeed in post-secondary education and beyond.

It is crucial that post-secondary education remains accessible, and affordable to British Columbians. Currently British Columbia has the fourth lowest tuition rate in all of Canada. Tuition fee increases will remain capped at the rate of inflation for the years to come.

Also, every child born in B.C. after January 1, 2007 receives $1,000 that will be invested for them through the Children's Education Fund. With interest, by the time the child is eligible that investment will more than double to $2,200 and can be accessed to support post-secondary learning.

A new medical school was opened in the Okanagan in 2006. By 2009 there will be approximately 30 residents in family medicine and specialty training. In addition, the number of physiotherapists educated in British Columbia will double as a result of new provincial funding for the University of British Columbia's physical therapy training program.

Great Goal

Lead the way in North America in healthy living and physical fitness.

Good quality health care coupled with making healthy choices in our day-to-day lives are essential for living a happy and productive life. British Columbia has one of the best medical systems in the world. Ensuring that our children and grandchildren have access to quality health care is a priority for this Government. The Province has worked diligently to ensure that British Columbians have access to the best quality care possible. In 2008, the government enshrined the five principles of the *Canada Health Act* in legislation, but also added a sixth principle – sustainability. It is important that we have good quality health care for generations to come, this is a legacy that we want to leave our children and grandchildren.

British Columbians made their voices heard in the largest public discussion about health care – the Conversation on Health. People from all over the province gave their input as to how they would like to see their health care system strengthened under the *Canada Health Act*. The results of that conversation showed that British Columbians want a sustainable public health care system that focuses on, among other things, preventative health. People want a health care system that is proactive not reactive.

The Province is working to ensure that British Columbians have access to more tools to make healthier choices for themselves and their families. Local governments have access to a new food resource guide, A Seat at the Table, that helps provide them with practical ideas and initiatives to help improve access of healthy foods to communities and also to provide ways to reduce the burden of chronic illnesses often related to





eating. It outlines how local governments can encourage the availability of healthy foods while improving local economies, the environment and the well-being of communities.

In 2008 the Canadian Community Health Survey revealed that British Columbia had the lowest self-reported adult obesity rates. Similarly, national survey results on tobacco use indicate that British Columbia has the lowest smoking rate in the country in a number of categories, especially among young people. These results are a sign that the Province's healthy living initiatives, including ActNow BC, are having a positive impact in British Columbia. However, obesity rates overall are climbing and a continued focus on prevention and enabling healthy choices will be a priority.

Tobacco-related illness is the leading cause of preventable death in B.C. Tobacco use causes up to 6,000 deaths in B.C. each year. Smoking kills more people in B.C. than all other drugs, motor vehicle collisions, murder, suicide and HIV/AIDS combined. As a result, Government passed the *Tobacco Control Act* banning smoking in indoor public places and work places, smoking near public doorways, open windows, and air intakes, and limiting the display and sales of tobacco and tobacco products.

Like the rest of us, it is important for seniors to stay active in their lives. In 2008 the Province provided $1.8 million to 18 communities throughout British Columbia to establish ActNow BC Seniors Community Parks that will encourage B.C. seniors to live healthy, active lives. Following through on a commitment from the 2008 Throne Speech, the ActNow BC Seniors Community Parks are designed to help older adults stay mobile, physically active and healthy in their communities.

Modeling healthy choices and lifestyles is important. Children need to learn about healthy living from a young age, which is why the Province has banned the sale of junk food in all schools, and have made daily physical activity a requirement for grades K-12, ensuring that British Columbia has the highest school health standards in Canada.

The Walking School Bus and Bicycle Train programs are other examples of how children can work towards meeting their physical activity requirements in a fun and engaging way. Not only do these programs promote physical activity, and build positive relationships, but they also help to reduce our carbon footprint. In order to support schools across B.C. in setting up their own walking school buses and bicycle trains, the Province is investing close to $200,000 for online tools and an incentive program.

The health and well-being of our children is paramount. In 2008, the Province made booster seats a requirement for all children between 40 - 80 pounds or until their ninth birthday. This measure will prevent injuries and perhaps save lives. In addition, the Province has banned smoking in cars that carry children, and the use of tobacco on school grounds. By the end of June 2008 almost all children in kindergarten will have received a vision screen, and those with vision problems were referred to an optometrist. By September 2008, approximately 95% of all newborn babies have had their hearing screened. These early interventions will ensure that children with vision and hearing difficulties can receive the help they need to enter school ready to learn.

It is important to everyone that they have access to good quality health care when they need it. British Columbia has the second lowest hospitalization rate in Canada and there has been a reduction in the number of people looking for a family physician. The Province is working to keep emergency wait times down in hospitals. In 2007, 84 per cent of emergency department patients reported satisfaction with their emergency department experience.





The promise of 5,000 net new residential care beds by the end of 2008 has been achieved, with 12,400 new or replacement beds – 5,900 new beds and 6,500 renovated beds – currently in place. In addition, since 2001 the wait times for residential care have dropped from one year to three months, with the budget increasing 24% since then.

Having enough trained health care professionals plays a big role in making sure that British Columbians have access to the best quality health care possible. Doubling the number of undergraduate medical school spaces in B.C. will help to ensure that more British Columbians have access to critical health care providers. In 2008, more doctors graduated from B.C. universities than any other year. These new talented physicians will help meet the growing needs of British Columbians and well help to address shortages.

British Columbia now has over 100 nurse practitioners who help fill the growing need for primary health care, including the management of chronic diseases, and providing their expertise in remote and isolated communities.

$15 million was invested in 2008 in the provincial Nursing Strategy to recruit, retain and educate the best qualified nurses. The Province's investment in the B.C. Nursing Strategy has provided funding to a broad range of areas and has allowed for the creation of new educational spaces, offered nurses around the province opportunities for continuing their education and career advancement, funded projects to ensure that nursing care meets the health needs of Aboriginal communities, and established workplace initiatives that ensure the wellbeing of nurses.

The Northern Cancer Control Strategy will see the development of a new cancer centre in Prince George. Construction of the centre will begin in 2009 and is slated to be finished in 2012. The new cancer centre in Prince George will provide residents of northern B.C. with increased access to cancer treatment and diagnostic services as close to their home communities as possible. People in the north will no longer have to fight cancer away from home, their families, and their friends.

SYSTEMS OF SUPPORT FOR THOSE MOST VULNERABLE

Great Goal

Build the best system of support in Canada for persons with disabilities, those with special needs, children at risk and seniors.

Every British Columbian should be able to live long, healthy and happy lives. That is why we are working to support people with special needs, children at risk, seniors and other vulnerable persons to live the best possible lives that they can.

Since 2003, the Province has contributed $23 million in grants to its early childhood learning partnership with Success by 6 as part of the ongoing commitment to support healthy growth and development of young children. Success by 6 supports early childhood development programs and services around the province, including Aboriginal communities. Also, the Roots of Empathy Program, which strengthens young children's capacity for caring and compassion while reducing bullying and aggression, has been expanded to 668 classrooms in over 480 schools in order to enhance these skills.

Youth that are in care face many challenges. The Province has created Agreements with Young Adults, a new $5 million program that will help youth in care who are between the ages of 19 to 24 transition into



independence and adulthood. This program will provide assistance to finish high school, enroll in vocational, college or university courses or complete a rehabilitative program for addictions or mental health issues.

Quality childcare is a concern for every parent in British Columbia. Every year the Province spends nearly $300 million on childcare. The multi-pronged approach includes: creating new licensed spaces; operating funds to help child care providers maintain quality spaces; child care subsidies for low and moderate income parents; added support to families of children with special needs; and assistance and incentives for early childhood educators. In 2008, the Province reached its target of funding the creation of more than 2,000 new licensed child-care spaces across the province by 2010.

The Province is committed to healthy developmental outcomes for all children in B.C., which is reflected in the vision set out in Strong, Safe and Supported: A Commitment to BC's Children. The Province is developing an integrated framework for children and youth which will outline the expectations that have been set for outcomes and opportunities for children and youth in our province. The Framework also sets out how the outcomes will be achieved and how the Province will measure success. This will be a cross-government effort to ensure the best outcomes for our children.

The good health and safety of children is a priority for the Province. In 2008, British Columbia became the first province in Canada to support Jordan's Principle to ensure that Aboriginal children receive the medical care they need regardless of what level of government is responsible.

The Province is providing $2.25 million for research that will lead to better treatments for children affected by disabilities such as Down Syndrome, Autism, Dyslexia and other illnesses through the B.C. Leadership Chair in Cognitive Neuroscience in Early Childhood Health and Development at Simon Fraser University. B.C. has tripled funding for children and youth with special needs from $53 million in 2001 to $155 million in 2008/09. B.C. invests more than $525 million a year on more than 90 programs and services specifically for children and youth with significant special needs and their families across the health, education and social service sectors. The Province has also increased funding for the Supported Child Development program, which enables children with special needs to take part in a typical child-care setting, from $31.4 million in 2000/01 to $57 million today – an increase of 82%.

The 2008/09 budget for Autism now more than $40 million – 12 times the budget in 2000/01. Government expanded the school funding formula to provide extra funding for students diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), providing an additional $16,000/student identified with ASD. Now direct funding for early autism intervention is serving over 5,000 children – up from only a few hundred prior to 2001.



Giving children the best possible start to life is important. Newborn babies in British Columbia will now be screened for more than three times as many disorders at birth that can be treated to avoid lifelong health issues.

British Columbians are living longer and healthier lives. The overall proportion of British Columbians aged 65 and older will continue to increase significantly, from 14.1% in 2007 to 24.7% in 2036. The Seniors' Healthy Living Framework recognizes the contribution and the important role of older people in our society.

The Framework has four cornerstones; create age-friendly communities, mobilize and support volunteerism, promote healthy living, and support older workers. To support actions in these areas the Province has established the Seniors' Healthy Living Secretariat. The Secretariat will also develop information services for seniors, engage with stakeholders and monitor and report on progress.

Housing is a major concern for many British Columbians, including older British Columbians. Many seniors would like to remain in their own homes and communities. The Province is committed to helping people stay in their own homes as long as possible.

Shelter and Aid for Elderly Renters (SAFER) makes rents affordable for seniors with low to moderate incomes. SAFER provides subsidies to people over 60 who pay rent for their homes. As of January 2009, BC Housing provides SAFER subsidies to more than 15,700 senior households renting apartments in the private market, including singles, couples and people sharing a unit.

Since 2004, the Province has provided more than $2.5 million in supports to the Seniors Housing and Support Initiative. This Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) initiative engages communities in preparing for the rising demand for appropriate housing and community support needs of the rapidly growing senior population.

There are many people in our province that do not have homes to live in, or are paying a large amount of their income towards their shelter needs. The Housing Matters Strategy is designed to work towards all British Columbians having access to safe, affordable and stable housing.

This year, the budget for affordable housing and shelter is more than $400 million dollars , more than three times as much as in 2001. This includes a commitment to create 15,900 new units of subsidized housing, the purchasing of 45 single room occupancy and affordable housing buildings and the necessary renovations to these units, and investments in long-term supportive housing units. Housing outreach teams, which provide supports to people on the streets, are in place in 48 communities and have placed over 4,600 people into social housing.

By integrating housing services for those with disabilities and employment and income assistance under one roof, the new Ministry of Housing and Social Development will facilitate the Province's continued commitment to build the best system of support in Canada for persons with disabilities, those with special needs, women and children at risk and seniors. At present, adult community living services are provided to more than 12,000 adults with developmental disabilities.

In 2007, a number of measures were announced in order to break the cycle of homelessness. Focusing on outreach and intervention on the street and providing more permanent housing with supports, these measures include having most emergency shelters open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, expanding homeless outreach services, and funding pre-development costs to ensure city-owned sites will be ready for the start of construction of new supportive housing within a year.

Another avenue of support that is available is the Rental Assistance Program which provides low-income, working families with cash assistance to help with their monthly rent payments. Since 2006 when the Program was introduced, more than 6,000 low-income working families with children have received rent payment assistance. In addition, the $250 million Housing Endowment Fund was created to inspire new ideas and support innovative housing solutions for British Columbians. The Province is committed to providing housing choices and supports to those that need it.



It is important to provide support to new immigrants so that they can transition smoothly into British Columbia communities. This is partly accomplished through providing ESL programs and training throughout British Columbia. WelcomeBC also helps immigrants moving to British Columbia access services under one umbrella so they are better able to adapt to life in their new communities. WelcomeBC funding for basic English language training was increased from $19 million in 2005/06 to $69 million in 2008/09.

B.C. strives to be a place where people with disabilities live the life they choose, enabled by an innovative, integrated system of networked services and personal supports that generate and sustain welcoming, accessible, and inclusive communities. British Columbia invests over $4.3 billion annually in disability supports and services, including the only subsidized bus pass for low-income persons with disabilities in Canada. B.C.'s multi-pronged Disability Strategy aims to provide better integrated services, personal supports, housing, accessibility and employment for persons with disabilities.



Some of the most vulnerable British Columbians are those suffering from mental illness and addiction. Mental health and addictions expenditures are projected to be more than $1.2 billion, representing more than a 42% increase since 2001.

Government is providing treatment and supports throughout the province. New addictions treatment facilities have been opened for both youth and adults, with an increase in new community addictions beds of 150% since 2003, for a total of almost 2,200 beds today. Since 2001, almost 3,000 new community mental health beds have been added, for a total of more than 7,700 beds province-wide. In July 2008, the Burnaby Centre for Mental Health and Addiction was opened, as safe facility for persons with concurrent disorders who are not able to stay in community-based mental health facilities, and had provided 100 beds operational by December 2008.

In 2008 Canada's first Community Court opened in downtown Vancouver. This court brings together a host of integrated services under one roof that are focused on helping offenders break free from the cycle of crime, homelessness, addictions and mental illness. This Court is an innovative approach that brings together a wide variety of services and agencies in downtown Vancouver. The Community Court takes a problem-solving approach to fighting crime by addressing the underlying health and social problems that often lead to criminal behaviour.

Where Do We Want To Go From Here?

Government will continue to focus on programs and initiatives that provide the supports people need to be healthy and live fulfilling lives.

First, this will include a continued emphasis on early learning to ensure our children are in the strongest position to learn when entering school. An early learning strategy is being developed that will coordinate efforts across ministries and present a unified approach based on best practices. One part of this strategy that government is still pursuing is voluntary all day kindergarten for children ages 3-5. While not immediately feasible due to factors such as available space and qualified educators, government is still committed to pursuing this vision as soon as reasonably possible.

With the creation of the Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport, this Government has demonstrated its continued focus on preventative health measures. Programs such as ActNow BC, and initiatives that eliminate unhealthy foods in schools while emphasizing physical activity will combat rising obesity rates.

Improving the health of aboriginal people remains a focus of this Government, through the implementation of the tripartite Aboriginal Health Plan. This is a long-term strategy to attempt to close the gap on key health indicators between aboriginal and non-aboriginal people.

Addressing the housing and homelessness issue is a key cornerstone for ensuring that all British Columbians have the ability to be healthy. Working together with our partners, including local government and non-profit organizations, is necessary in order to provide the housing and associated supportive services. There is not an immediate fix to this problem, and solutions will require patience and continued engagement by all parties. This Government is committed to finding long-term solutions to these complex issues.

Contributing to the complexity of the homelessness issue is the inability to separate mental health and addictions. The Housing Matters strategy incorporates supportive services for people suffering from mental health, but this in itself is not enough. A 10-year Mental Health Strategy is also being developed that will provide further supports and a coordinated cross-government strategy for addressing mental health issues.



3. A Healthy Environment

Great Goal

Lead the world in sustainable environmental management, with the best air and water quality and the best fisheries management, bar none.

What Are We Doing Now?

CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change will be one of the biggest challenges that the global community will face this century. We as British Columbians need to make healthy choices for our families and for the environment that we all coexist in. Since 2001, British Columbia has invested more than $2 billion in climate change initiatives – either in projects that will result in reduced greenhouse gas emissions or in those that allow British Columbia to prepare for the impacts of climate change.

The Province has legislated a 33 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2020, we have also committed to having a carbon neutral public sector by 2010. Targets have also been established for 2012 and 2016, based on advice from the Climate Action Team.

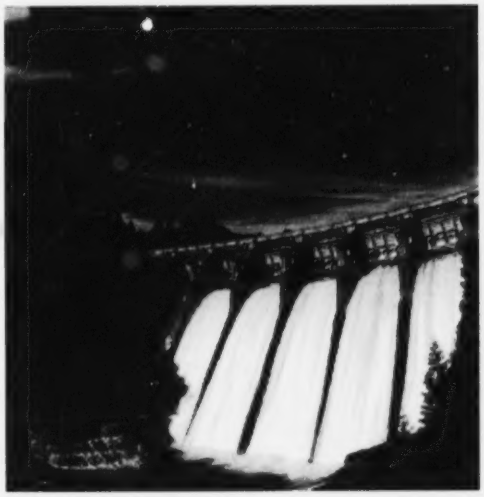
The Province has brought together the top climate scientists and researchers, along with government and the private sector to develop innovative climate change adaptation and mitigation solutions. This is being done through an investment of $94.5 million to establish the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions and the Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium. Besides providing research support and developing innovative alternatives such as new energy



systems, new forms of transportation, alternative technologies, and socio-behavioral change, the Institute will also provide the public with information and ideas on how to reduce individual greenhouse gas emissions through public forums, publications and online information. It will also provide education, training and outreach to business leaders, government staff and non-government organizations via workshops, short courses and publications.

The first steps to greening the B.C. Building Code have been taken, with standards for energy and water efficiency. These steps will help to reduce the environmental impact of buildings, while lowering long-term costs for British Columbians. The B.C. Building code will be updated regularly with green standards to support the Province's climate action goals. The Province is exploring further changes, including grey water recycling, the use of lighting sensors and the reuse of existing buildings.

In 2007, the Province released the BC Energy Plan: A vision for Clean Energy Leadership, which set aggressive targets and goals for our province. All new electricity projects in B.C. are built with zero net greenhouse gas emissions and all existing thermal generation power plants will reach zero net greenhouse gas emissions by 2016. By 2020, 50 per cent of BC Hydro's incremental resource needs will be acquired through conservation, and the Province is committed to being electricity self-sufficient by 2016. Furthermore, the $25 million Innovative Clean Energy Fund will encourage the development of clean energy and energy efficient technologies in the electricity, alternative energy, transportation and oil and gas sectors.



LiveSmart BC and the Energy Efficient Buildings Strategy: More Action and Less Energy will help British Columbians meet the goal to become energy self-sufficient by 2016. Between them, they leverage over $160 million in funding and set new targets to maximize efficiency, conserve energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

British Columbia is world-renowned for its plentiful natural resources and strong environmental values. Through the BC Bioenergy Strategy, British Columbia will develop the provinces resources to enhance both the environmental and economic benefits for the people who live here. The BC Bioenergy Strategy will create new opportunities for rural communities and spur new investment and innovation, while helping British Columbia become energy self-sufficient by 2016. Part of the Strategy includes setting up the $25 million Bioenergy Network. The Bioenergy Network will encourage the development of pilot and demonstration projects with industries and communities in key biomass resource areas. It will support research in socially and environmentally

responsible dedicated energy crop production and enhance enzymatic and other biotechnology solutions for biomass-to-energy conversion. In addition, $10 million over three years will go to biodiesel production.

The new carbon tax on pollution was brought in by the Province in 2008 to encourage individuals and business to make more environmentally responsible choices, reducing their use of fossil fuels and related emissions. Under law, the carbon tax is revenue neutral, meaning that every penny will be returned to the pockets of British Columbians through person, small business, and corporate income tax. The tax has the advantage of providing an incentive without favouring one way to reduce emissions over another. It gives British Columbians a choice on how they wish to adapt their behaviour to reduce their consumption of fossil fuels.

In September 2008, communities were offered an incentive to sign an agreement to be carbon neutral by 2010. Communities that sign the agreement will be refunded the full amount that they have paid in the carbon tax. This will give communities and Boards of Education a better opportunity to meet their climate change goals, and to meet the provincial goals of reducing our greenhouse gas emissions by 33% by 2020.

The B.C. Transit Plan was announced in January, 2008, which outlined the Province's strategy to double transit ridership. The Plan will reduce provincial transportation greenhouse gas emissions by 4.7 million tons cumulatively by 2020. The $14 billion Plan calls for investments in four rapid transit lines in Metro Vancouver, new cutting edge energy efficient and high capacity RapidBus BC service along nine major routes in high growth urban centres, and 1,600 new clean energy buses to provide communities across the province with improved bus service.



Communities are jumping at the opportunity to become more environmentally friendly as evidenced during the Green City Awards, which provide exceptional communities with $475,000 in shared reward funding annually. These communities all demonstrated leadership and innovation in sustainability.

Water is an essential ingredient to life. Without something as simple as clean drinkable water life in British Columbia would be completely different. It is important that each and every one of us lives as water smart as we can, but it is something that many of us take for granted.

Impacts of climate change, our growing population and booming economy means that we need a different approach to water management. Living Water Smart is a comprehensive plan for sustainable management of all freshwater (surface and groundwater), protection of aquatic ecosystems and encouraging water smart behaviour and community development practices. The plan commits to new actions and targets and builds on existing work underway in the province to protect and keep our water safe.

Following through on its 2008 Throne Speech commitment, the Province launched the Trees for Tomorrow program, a cost-sharing venture to plant millions of trees in public areas of cities, towns, villages and regional districts throughout B.C. over the coming five years. Planting trees will enhance the environment visually, while at the same time will help lock away greenhouse gases that would otherwise contribute to climate change. The five-year, $161 million program is aimed at planting four million trees and will be implemented though a public-private partnership model.



To ensure the best air quality possible, the Province announced the B.C. Air Action Plan, which sets out 28 actions to reduce pollution from all sources. All initiatives will be underway by 2009, and $28.5 million over three years has been dedicated to the Plan. The Government will be implementing the plan in partnership with industry, communities and other levels of government.

In 2007, the Province announced its $100 million, 10 year Flood Protection Program for flood protection infrastructure and maintenance. This Program reflects the Government's recognition that important work needs to be done to adapt to the real and growing threat of flooding related to global warming. The program secured matching federal funding each year, resulting in $20 million worth of funding available for distribution across the Province.

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

There were 11 new "Class A" parks and 73 additional conservancies created in British Columbia in 2008. This added more than one million hectares to B.C.'s parks and protected areas network, almost twice the size of Prince Edward Island. Since 2001, the Province has protected over 1.9 million hectares of additional land, bringing the total area protected to more than 14% of British Columbia – more than any other province in Canada.

To further improve upon our parks system, the Province has invested nearly $83 million over the past four years to improve park infrastructure and acquire additional parkland.

In 2006, the Province announced its new vision for coastal B.C., as outlined in the Central Coast and North Coast Land and Resource Management Plans. Combined, these two plans cover an area of 6.4 million hectares, and include a total combined protected area of 1.8 million hectares, including some of the largest intact temperate rainforests in the world and Spirit Bear habitat. A key element of these plans includes the adoption of Ecosystem Based Management (EBM) that encourages conservation and sustainable land use practices.

Rivers and waterways are the lifeblood of British Columbia, important to wildlife, communities and industry. In 2002, the Living Rivers Trust Fund was established with a $2 million endowment. In 2004, the Province provided an additional $5 million to the Living Rivers Trust, and in 2006 the Province added an additional $14 million to that trust bringing the total to $21 million for British Columbians. The Living Rivers Trust provides river and watershed research, helps to establish the sustainable use of water and helps to undo past damage. The Living Rivers Trust Fund is symbolic of the Province's commitment to protecting and improving B.C.'s rivers, watersheds, and fish habitats for the generations to come.

Where Do We Want To Go From Here?

B.C. has charted its course on climate change, with the establishment of its legislated goals for carbon emissions and greenhouse gas emissions. Our strategies developed over the last few years outline our plans and targets on everything from energy, bio-energy, agriculture, mountain pine beetle, to water, air, transit, and construction. Over the coming years, we will be focusing our efforts on implementing these strategies in order to achieve our objectives.

However, there is always more that can be done.

Government will also be looking at what can be done to further climate change objectives in urban settings. We didn't set out to create urban sprawl, or seek its consequences, such as increased travel costs, poor air quality and fragmented habitat. But together we can work to build the kind of place we want to live in, where our homes, workplaces and key service centres are near each other. Where there are paths and trails through green spaces to allow us to walk or cycle to the places we want to go. And where living spaces are designed to ensure our families, singles, seniors and different income groups can live together.

Through such initiatives as the Green Cities Awards and the $40 million LocalMotion Fund, the Province has and will continue to support innovative initiatives undertaken by local governments to make their communities greener and healthier to live. However, Government will, in the coming months, be more proactive in working directly with local communities and engaging the public, including our youth, on developing strategies to make urban settings environmentally friendly and sustainable places for people to live, work and play.

We still have a long way to go to achieve our vision of what neighbourhoods should be like, and government intends to build a bridge that will take us to a place where we can all talk about these things and create innovate solutions. Opportunities abound to build new economies and new markets for environmentally sustainable product and services. We currently live in the Best Place on Earth. Imagine where we can take it in the future.



GOAL 1 – Make B.C. the best educated, most literate jurisdiction on the continent	Baseline	Current Status	2015/2016 Target
SCHOOL READINESS • % Kindergarten students entering school "ready to learn"	72.1% (04/05 restated)	70.4%	85%
STUDENT LITERACY • Program for Internaticnal Student Assessment Ranking	2ND in Canada 3rd internationally	3RD in Canada 6th Internationally (measured every 2nd year)	1ST In Canada Improve internationally
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION	79% (2004/05)	79% (2007/08)	85%
POST-SECONDARY COMPLETION	56% (2004) Canadian Average 57%	58.5% (2007) Canadian average 60.3%	Exceed Canadian Average

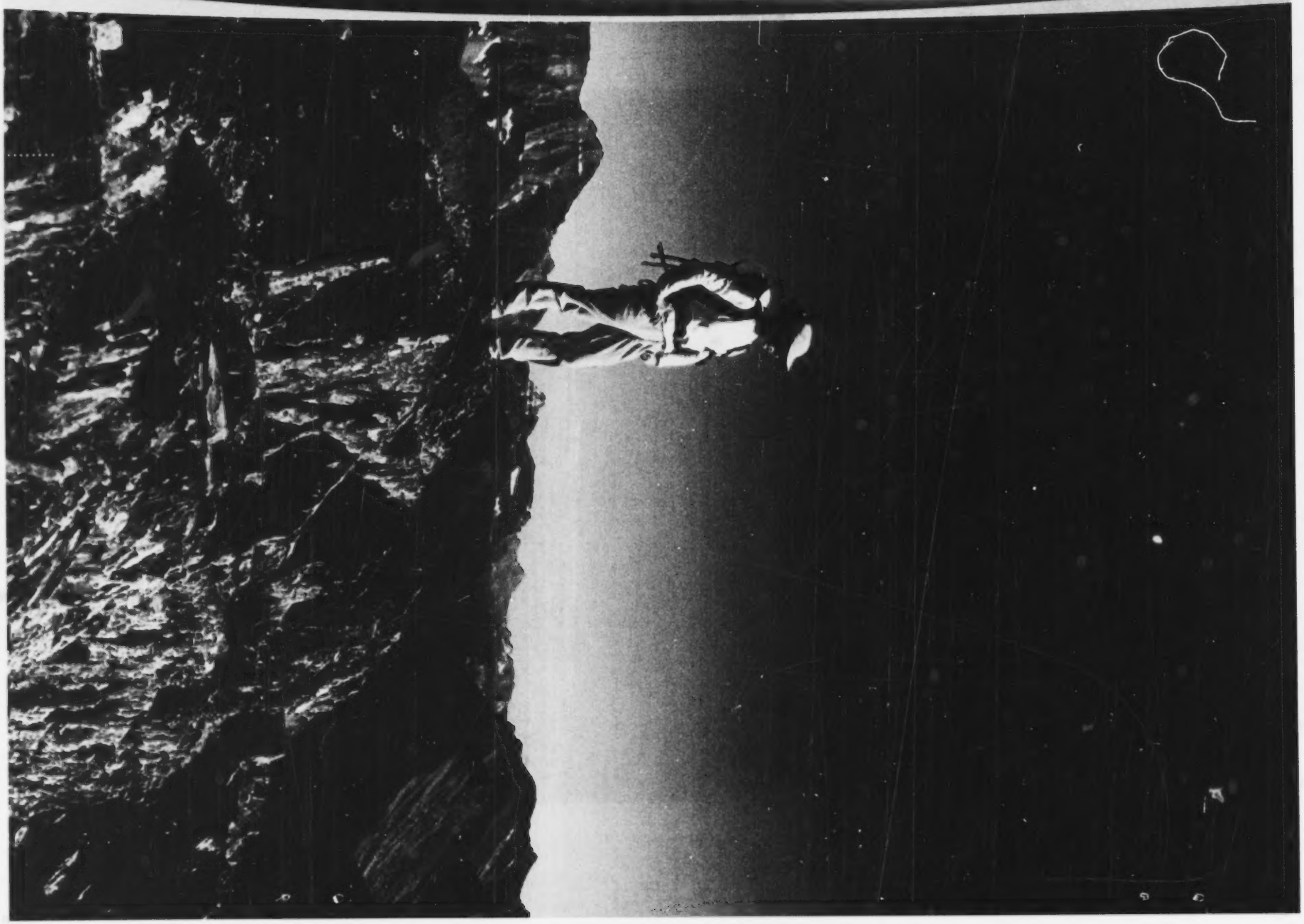
GOAL 2 - Lead the way in North America in healthy living and physical fitness	Baseline	Current Status	2015/2016 Target
LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH	81 yrs (2004)	81.1 yrs (2007) Highest in Canada	>81 yrs
PHYSICAL ACTIVITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIANS • More than 30 minutes of moderate physical activity per day	58.1% (2003)	53.7% (2005) 1st in Canada	73%
BRITISH COLUMBIANS WHO ARE OVERWEIGHT	42.3% Lowest % in Canada (2003)	41.2% (2005) Lowest in Canada	32%
TOBACCO USE	15% Lowest % in Canada (2003)	14% (2007) Lowest % in Canada	13%

GOAL 3 - Build the best system of support in Canada for persons with disabilities, those with special needs, children at risk and seniors	Baseline	Current Status	2015/2016 Target
DISABLED BRITISH COLUMBIANS WHO ARE WORKING • Of those who wish to work	52%[1] (2001) Canadian 41.5%	56.5%	56%[2]
DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN IN AN AGE APPROPRIATE GRADE	86% (2005)	87% (2007)	95%
BRITISH COLUMBIA SENIORS LIVING IN INSTITUTIONS • Seniors 75 or older in health care or related facilities	10.3% (2001) 2ND lowest in Canada	To be updated in the Spring of 2008	Maintain Canadian 2nd place rank.

GOAL 4 - Lead the world in sustainable environmental management, with the best air and water quality, and the best fisheries management, bar none	Baseline	Current Status	2015/2016 Target
AVERAGE FINE PARTICULATE CONCENTRATION IN MAJOR METROPOLITAN AREAS	Vancouver is 2ND lowest in Canada (2004)	Vancouver is lowest in Canada (2007)	Lowest in Canada
PROVINCE WIDE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS	Data will be available for use in 2009.		33% below 2007 levels by 2020 2012 and 2016 targets TBD
WATER QUALITY • % Of 30 B.C. water bodies with stable or improving trends	96% (2004/05)	96% (2007/08)	>96%

GOAL 5 - Create more jobs per capita than anywhere else in Canada	Baseline	Current Status	2015/2016 Target
NUMBER OF NEW JOBS PER CAPITA	1ST (2005)	2ND (2008)	1ST

1 Baseline changed due to change in data collection method
2 Review of target underway at MHSD




Strategic Plan 2009/2010 – 2011/12

Province of British Columbia Strategic Plan

BRITISH
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